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NSC BRIEFING

29 July 1960

RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

- I. African nationalism may soon threaten continued white domination in Southern Africa according to officials in Rhodesia and South Africa.
  - A. American consul general in Salisbury is convinced that time is rapidly running out in Federation and unless massive Western--or US-British--effort made to reverse the trends, the consequences for western interests may be disastrous. He believes widespread violence may occur within six months.
    1. Situation in Congo has aroused African nationalists in Rhodesia and alarmed white officials.
    2. Recent nationalist disturbances in Salisbury and Bulawayo raged for six days, took 2,000 police and troops to quell, and resulted in 13 African deaths--including first victims of racial violence in Southern Rhodesian history.
  - B. Hope for easing of conditions in Rhodesia appears to depend on pressure from London since local white authorities remain adamant in defense of their privileges.
    1. Authorities miscalculate intensity of African nationalist feeling.
    2. Officials enforcing tough racial policies to appeal to European electorate while destroying influence of moderate Africans.

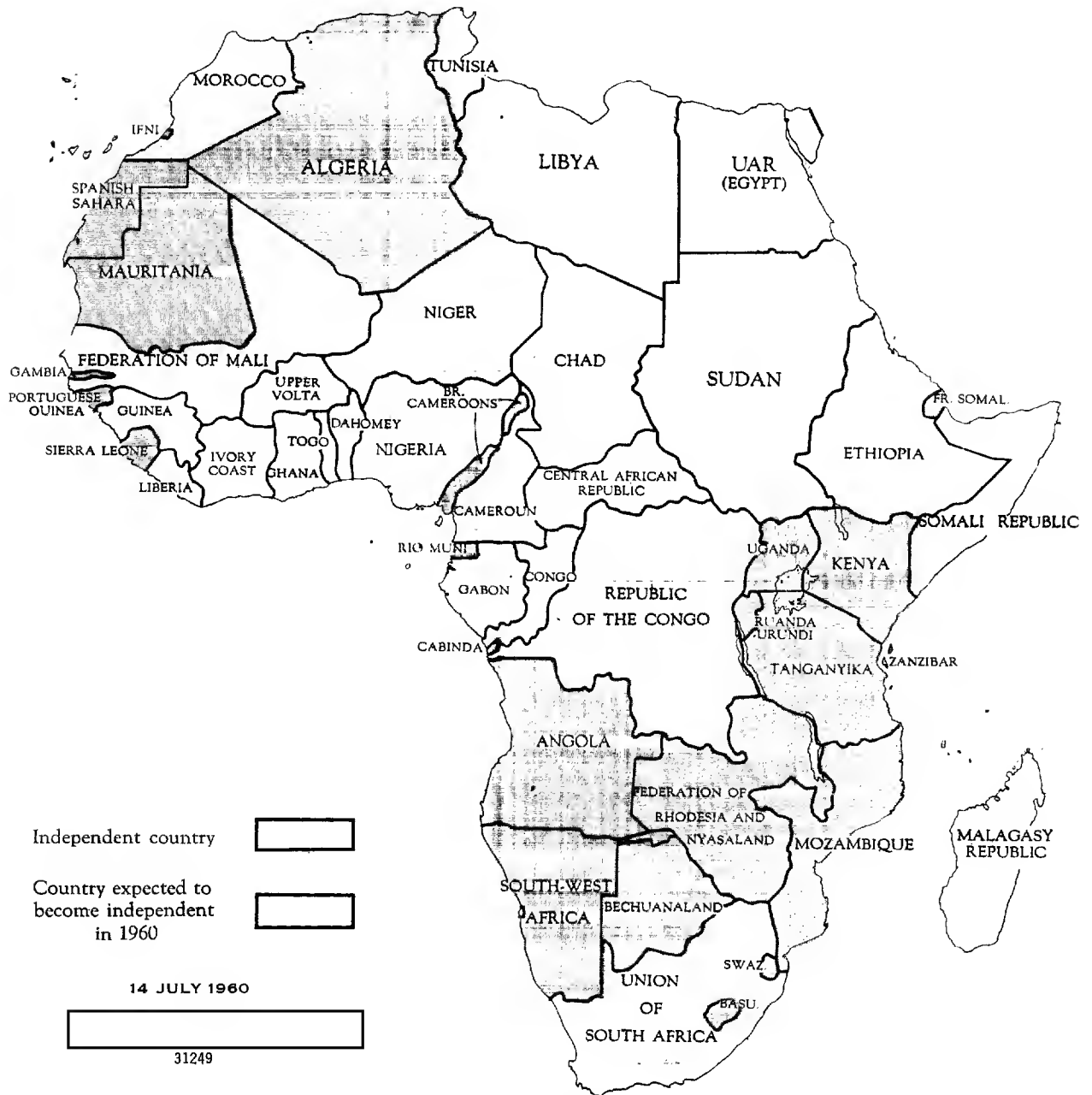
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- C. Official South African anxiety over defense of white position shown by recent proposal of Union defense minister that Portugal and South Africa formulate joint plans to defend Southern Africa from nationalist incursions from the north.
1. Portugal now hesitant to enter such alliance because of Union's racial policies.
  2. Lisbon already reinforcing its 20,000 troops in Angola and Mozambique.

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